

PhoneTools



508 North View Road
Mount Airy, MD 21771

Phone: 301-831-0927

Fax: 3010-831-0927

Message :

Please review the attached document.

From:
Steve and Linnea Capps

To: US Department of Justice
Attorney General John Ashcroft

Date: 1/26/2002

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508 North View Road
Mt. Airy, MD 21771-5668
(301) 831-0927

January 23, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft
US Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

As a woman aspiring to start her own business, I am discouraged and disheartened by the manner in which the federal government treats success. I am *bitterly* disappointed that our government - MY government - feels it necessary to oversee the financial castration of inventors and creators, hobbling what is supposed to be free enterprise. I feel strongly that government has *no right* to insert itself into legitimate and successful business, to legislate and litigate, to attempt to regulate a product that clearly outshines other, similar products. Smaller companies, who can't compete because the quality of the product they offer is no match for the "big guy", cry foul and the government steps in to try to level the playing field. The playing field for business will never be level. It is not only futile to attempt to level that field with legislation or legal action, it is a childish wish for fairness that assumes that it can be done. If Linux and Unix were such operating systems, they would be where Microsoft is now, because the consumer would have demanded their products over Windows. If WordPerfect or Lotus 1-2-3 were as user-friendly as MS Word or Excel, they would be the applications in great demand. The fact is, Microsoft is guilty of nothing more than being popular - popular because they provide an intuitive, user-friendly, and versatile environment in which to work. How can you, as Attorney General, support, represent, or oversee the punishment of a company whose only crime is that the consumer prefers its product over the competition's?

For example: The entry of Wal-Mart and Target into the discount department store business, offering better products at lower prices, drove KMart into Chapter 11 bankruptcy. Consumers regulated the market with their purchases. In the eyes of the consumer, Kmart just didn't measure up to the competition. It has always been consumers who ensure the success or demise of a business. We have, and should be allowed to retain, without legislative or litigious interference, the power to regulate business with our wallets.

I am not so naïve as to think Microsoft is entirely without fault or abuse of power in their rise to their current market position. The proposed settlement with the government, which I have reviewed, appears to be genuinely equitable. It not only provides a solution to the anti-trust "problem" Microsoft presented (in the eyes of the Department of Justice), it also provides concessions to Microsoft and its competitors. At this point, I do not believe additional action is necessary on the federal level.

I am concerned that the federal government has been so intrusive and vituperative against Microsoft. Success, innovation, and creativity should not be a federal offense, and are certainly no reason for litigation to continue. I urge you and your office to finalize the settlement and move on.

Sincerely,

Linnea Capps
(Mrs. Stephen R.)

MTC-00030474_0002